



Veterans get warm welcome to Biloxi, ready to compete



Veterans, family members, and caregivers arrived at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport in multiple waves, Sunday, May 7. The Veterans were greeted by the Mississippi 41st Army Band, Volunteers and other members of the Gulf Coast community. **Photo by Wayne Alley/Gulf Coast VA Medical Center/ Medical Media**

BILOXI, Miss. — The stage is set for The 2017 National Veterans Golden Age Games.

Hundreds of Veteran athletes arrived in Biloxi from around the country Sunday. They were greeted by hundreds of volunteers who completed their registration, helped find their hotel rooms, and many other aspects of the process before the competitions begin today.

As registration continued, Veterans participated in a Health

and Wellness Expo in the Mississippi Coast Convention Center. The Expo was designed in a job-fair type set-up, with information booths and various vendors from the surrounding community.

There were also various exhibitions and sports clinics inside the Convention Center throughout the day.

Other events such as shuffleboard, badminton, air rifle, and horseshoes were among the

sports clinics or exhibitions on display.

A winning spirit filled the center as Veterans greeted each other and shared their military experience.

"I'm here to win the gold," said Shirley L. Chapman, from Chicago, Illinois. Chapman said he'll compete in the nine ball, bowling, shuffleboard, air rifle and bocchia competitions.

MONDAY, MAY 8	
8 – 10 a.m.	
FIELD JAVELIN	St. Patrick Catholic High School
FIELD DISCUS	St. Patrick Catholic High School
8 – 11 a.m.	
AIR RIFLE	Mississippi Coast Convention Center Hall C/D
9 a.m. – Noon	
BADMINTON SINGLES	Miss. Coast Conv. Center E2 Doubles
BOCCIA SINGLES	Convention Center E1 WC/VI ALL 85-89, 90+
HORSESHOES	Miss. Coast Convention Center E4 60-64
EXH. PICKLEBALL	Mississippi Coast Convention Center E1
SHUFFLEBOARD	Mississippi Coast Convention Center E4 55-59
TABLE TENNIS	Mississippi Coast Convention Center E3 70-74
10 a.m. – Noon	
JAVELIN	St. Patrick Catholic High School
FIELD DISCUS	St. Patrick Catholic High School
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	
NINEBALL	Mississippi Coast Convention Center Hall D 65-69
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	
AIR RIFLE	Mississippi Coast Convention Center Hall C/D
1 – 3 p.m.	
FIELD JAVELIN	St. Patrick Catholic High School
FIELD DISCUS	St. Patrick Catholic High School
1 – 4 p.m.	
TABLE TENNIS	Mississippi Coast Convention Center E3 75-79
2 – 5 p.m.	
BOCCIA SINGLES	Mississippi Coast Convention Center E1 60-64
SHUFFLEBOARD	Convention Center E4 WC/VI 80-84, 85-89, 90+
3 – 5 p.m.	
FIELD JAVELIN*	St. Patrick Catholic High School
FIELD DISCUS*	St. Patrick Catholic High School
AIR RIFLE*	Mississippi Coast Convention Center Hall C/D
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	
PARADE OF ATHLETES	Beau Rivage, Magnolia



Veteran Stacie Sarno is looking forward to participating in her 3rd National Veterans Golden Age Games. Sarno served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1975 to 1978, and the U.S. Air Force in 1980. During the games, she will compete in six different events: shotput, discus, the 800 meter run, 50 meter freestyle swim, and the 50 meter backstroke. Sarno embodies the message of the National Veterans Golden Age Games, stating the games “holds me accountable, keeps me in shape and healthy.” She adds, “More importantly, this instills a sense of camaraderie with fellow Veterans, and gives me something to look forward to each year.” **Photo by Emilee Arledge/VA Public Affairs Volunteer**



The Veterans Canteen Service, national level sponsor support the NVGAG. Pictured from left to right: Jeffery Hammontree, William Williams, Jim Leahy (COO VCS), Dr. Skye McDougall (Director VISN 16), Brent Hughes, Denise Knowles, David Gonzalez.



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